

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-18, 20, 22-31, 33 and 35-39 were rejected for indefiniteness under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested, for the following reasons.

As the Examiner will note, the claims have been amended so as to clarify the phrase deemed to be misdescriptive. Indeed, the independent claims have been amended to recite "the slider including an air bearing surface that is selectively etched to form a shallow recessed surface and a deep recessed surface". Indeed, a portion of the air bearing surface of the slider is removed (by etching, for example), so as to form and define the claimed shallow recessed surface and the claimed deep recessed surface. It is believed that the amended claims define embodiments of the present invention with sufficient degree of specificity so as to satisfy the requirements of §112(2). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections applied to the above-listed claims are, therefore, believed warranted.

The pending claims were variously rejected as being anticipated and/or obvious over the AAPA and Otsuka. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested, for the following reasons.

Responsive to the Examiner's remarks in the "Response to Amendment" section of the outstanding Office Action, the applicant has reinstated the "co-planar" and "single radius of curvature" recitations in each of the independent claims, the previous lack of which prompted the Examiner to reinstate the rejections over the AAPA and Otsuka. With these recitations reinstated within the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claims overcome the rejections based upon both the AAPA and Otsuka, for the reasons advanced in the amendment of February 6, 2004

(incorporated herewith by reference), as well as for the reasons advanced during the recent interview of January 22, 2004.

It is believed that the present amendment places this application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event that questions or issues remain relating to this response or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions and whatever is needed will be done immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

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PAGE 13

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